
Media Release

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MONTENEGRO SENSE EXERCISE MEDIA DAY

STUTTGART, Germany -- Approximately forty senior Montenegrin government and business leaders will participate in the first-ever Synthetic Environments for National Security Estimates (SENSE) Exercise Feb. 22-26 at the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency (NC3A) at The Hague, The Netherlands. The exercise is the first of two planned exercises with Montenegrin officials.

The United States European Command, the Marshall Center, NC3A and the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) are sponsoring this innovative exercise which teaches the principles of political, economic and military interrelationships through a combination of interactive computer simulations and seminars. Rather than wait for the consequences of business and political decisions to develop slowly, leaders can immediately see how their actions affect the economic and political health of a computer simulated nation.

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Nations emerging from decades of communist domination must develop political economic and military institutions commensurate with those found in the democratic and free market nations of the west. Recent experience indicates that the leaders of these newly democratic nations must develop an understanding of how a free market economy works, interacts with, and is affected by political and military policies and decisions. SENSE, developed by the Institute for Defense Analyses, teaches these principles, concepts and interrelationships.

The SENSE computer simulations allow participants to influence the economic growth and development of a fictitious country through interactive decisions. During the exercise, seminars explain the broad principles of economic development, highlight the types of policies and issues captured in the SENSE simulation, and provide a forum for reviews discussions of lessons learned.

The SENSE exercise teaches the basic relationship between a healthy market and national security, and demonstrates how properly applied democratic practices enhance economic development.

One of the most important objectives of this highly interactive computer game is to teach participants about the interaction of policies.

Not unlike a military flight simulator, policies and decisions input by the participants immediately affect the fictitious country and the computer indicates whether these policies would lead to long term growth or to a horrific crash.

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Data from the simulation is tabulated by IDA and State Department professionals and is used during the seminars to reinforce lessons learned about the broad principles of economic development.

Because the participants in the exercise are leaders who are working daily to transform the Montenegrin economy, the simulation will be an excellent opportunity for Montenegrin leaders to build lasting relationships and cohesive teams.

The far-reaching value of this exercise has been recognized by NATO. Several Permanent Representatives to the North Atlantic Council as well as the NATO's Supreme Allied Commander will attend the exercise as observers.

A Media Day is scheduled for Feb. 24, 1:30 p.m., at the NC3A Facility at The Hague. The event includes remarks by U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles J. Wax, U.S. European Command Director of Plans and Policy, a tour of the exercise facility, and a question and answer session.

If you plan to attend the Media Day or have any questions, please call Major Toni Kemper, U.S. European Command Public Affairs, at 49-711-6808436 (before Feb. 22) or at the Joint Visitors Bureau at The Hague (after 1400 hrs. Feb.22) at 31-70-314-2389.